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Forty-seventh session

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Letter dated 24 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the texts of the resolutions of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus "On the denunciation of the Treaty of 1922 on the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" and "On the ratification of the Agreement on the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States" (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and of its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the agenda items entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" and "Right of peoples to self-determination".

(Signed) Guennadi N. BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Belarus to the United Nations

Annex I

RESOLUTION

Of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus

On the denunciation of the Treaty of 1922 on the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

In accordance with the Declaration of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus on the State sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus and with the resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus "On guaranteeing the political and economic independence of the Republic of Belarus",

The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus decides:

1. To denounce the Treaty of 1922 on the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and to consider it as having no validity in relation to the Republic of Belarus;

2. To give effect to the present resolution from the moment of its adoption.

President of the Supreme Soviet
of the Republic of Belarus S. SHUSHKEVICH

10 December 1991

Minsk

Annex II

RESOLUTION

Of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus

On the ratification of the Agreement on the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States

The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus decides:

1. To ratify the Agreement between the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic (RSFSR) and Ukraine on the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, signed on behalf of the Republic of Belarus on 8 December 1991 in the city of Minsk by the President of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus;

2. To call upon the Permanent Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus on National Policy and Relations among Nationalities to make any observations it may see fit concerning the Agreement on the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States and to submit these for consideration by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus.

President of the Supreme Soviet
of the Republic of Belarus S. SHUSHKEVICH

10 December 1991

Minsk

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PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE WORLD

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 26 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a letter from Mr. Anatoly M. Zlenko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, addressed to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mr. H. D. Genscher, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, dated 12 December 1991 (see annex).

I request you to circulate the text of this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world" and "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Gennady I. UDOVENKO
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations

ANNEX

Letter dated 12 December 1991 to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

I have the honour to inform you in your capacity as Chairman of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) that Ukraine has decided to accede to the Final Act, signed at Helsinki in 1975, and to become a direct participant in CSCE.

In informing you of this decision I should like to note that it was taken in accordance with the "Final recommendations of the Helsinki consultations", in particular paragraphs 54 and 65 of these recommendations, in which it is stated that all European States, the United States and Canada shall be entitled to take part in CSCE and that they shall do so as sovereign and independent States and in conditions of full equality.

The All-Ukrainian Referendum of 1 December 1991 confirmed the Act proclaiming the independence of Ukraine, thereby convincingly demonstrating the desire of the people of sovereign Ukraine to have an independent State of their own. If the CSCE process is to further unite all the European States around common principles and actions, Ukraine must become a direct participant.

Ukraine has repeatedly raised the issue of its being afforded the possibility of taking direct part in the CSCE process. In particular, this issue was raised by Mr. L. M. Kravchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in his message to the participants of the all-European Summit in Paris in November 1990.

On 5 December 1991, in its address "To Parliaments and Peoples of the World", the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine emphasized that independent Ukraine was ready to accede to the Final Act of Helsinki, the Charter of Paris and other CSCE documents. The Verkhovna Rada called on the parliaments and governments of the CSCE States to support the intention of Ukraine to become a direct and full-fledged participant in the all-European process.

Ukraine fully shares and supports the purposes and principles of the basic CSCE documents and will do its utmost to put them into practice, using its experience as a long-time member of the United Nations and other international organizations.

The Ukrainian State believes that its immediate inclusion in the CSCE process will help it reliably strengthen its external security, which is indissolubly linked with the creation of a system of collective security in Europe. Ukraine's active participation in all-round European cooperation will create favourable conditions for the solution of its economic problems, and

the successful building of a civilian society based on the principles of pluralistic democracy in which the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rights of national minorities, will be fully realized.

In turn, the building of a united, peaceful and prosperous Europe undoubtedly needs the direct participation of Ukraine, as a major European State which is ready to assume all obligations and responsibilities resulting from its admission to the CSCE process. As is pointed out in the Declaration of the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada of 22 November 1991 concerning the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Ukraine - one of the successor States to the former USSR - regards it as obligatory for itself to implement the provisions of the Treaty in respect of all armed forces located in its territory. Ukraine states that its armed forces fall within the purview of the Treaty and considers its direct participation in the CSCE as an important condition for the effective fulfillment of the obligations resulting for it from the provisions of the Treaty.

Ukraine strictly adheres to its own decision to become a non-nuclear State. The deployment in its territory of nuclear weapons, which remain under unified centralized control, is only temporary. Ukraine will consistently pursue its policy aimed at the full destruction of these weapons and of the components of their deployment in the shortest possible time and at acceding to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible as a non-nuclear State.

I should like to express the conviction that you, Mr. Chairman, will view with understanding Ukraine's decision to become a direct participant of the CSCE process and will help make it possible for Ukraine to take its place among the CSCE participating States at the next meeting of the CSCE Council on 30-31 January 1992 at Prague. If need be I would be prepared to exchange views with you on the above issues.

I request you, Mr. Chairman, to bring the contents of this letter to the attention of the representatives of the participating States in the CSCE Council.

Anatoly M. Zlenko
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Ukraine

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 24 December 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a Statement of the European Community and its Member States on the future status of Russia and other former Soviet Republics, issued on 23 December 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) J. De MARCHANT ET d'ANSEMBOURG
Acting Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement on the future status of Russia and other former Soviet Republics, issued at Brussels on 23 December 1991

The European Community and its member States have taken note with satisfaction of the decision of the participants at the meeting in Alma Ata on 21 December 1991 to form a Commonwealth of independent States.

They note that the international rights and obligations of the former USSR, including those under the United Nations Charter, will continue to be exercised by Russia. They welcome the Russian Government's acceptance of these commitments and responsibilities and in this capacity will continue their dealings with Russia, taking account of the modification of her constitutional status.

They are prepared to recognize the other republics constituting the Commonwealth as soon as they receive assurances from those republics that they are ready to fulfil the requirements contained in the "guidelines on the recognition of new states in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union", adopted by Minsiters on 16 December 1991.

In particular, they expect to receive assurances that these republics will fulfil the international obligations ensuing for them from treaties and agreements concluded by the Soviet Union, including the ratification and full implementation of the CFE Treaty by the republics to which that Treaty applies, and that they will ensure single control over nuclear weapons and their non-proliferaton.

The Presidency will approach the Republics concerned in order to obtain from them the required assurances in good time for recognition to be effective as from the moment the dissolution of the Soviet Union enters into force.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 26 December 1991 from the Acting Chargé d'affaires of the Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency, on the instructions of the Government of Costa Rica, a communiqué issued on 23 December 1991 concerning the extraordinary events that have transformed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics into a community of independent States (see annex).

I request you to have this note and the attached communiqué circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 20 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) José María BORBON
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

ANNEX

Communiqué from the Government of Costa Rica
issued on 23 December 1991

The Government of Costa Rica expresses its satisfaction at the establishment, on 21 December 1991, of the community of independent States consisting of the majority of the Republics which made up the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The Government of Costa Rica announces its decision to recognize the Russian Federation as successor State to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and to recognize, as sovereign and independent States, the Republics of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and all the other new sovereign and independent Republics: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, Moldavia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. It also announces its intention to establish diplomatic and consular relations with those Republics as soon as possible.

Lastly, Costa Rica wishes to stress the invaluable role played by His Excellency Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, whose desire for peace and democracy and whose bold leadership were decisive factors in ending the cold war and bringing about the emergence of a new model of international relations based on cooperation and coordination.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE
CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON
THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE
ORGANIZATION
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 27 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit:

(a) The Protocol to the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States signed at Minsk on 8 December 1991 by the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation (RSFSR) and Ukraine (annex I);

(b) The Alma Ata Declaration (annex II);

(c) The minutes of the meeting of Heads of Independent States (annex III);

(d) The Agreement on coordinating bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States (annex IV);

(e) A decision by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (annex V);

(f) The Agreement on joint measures with respect to nuclear weapons (annex VI);

(g) A statement by the delegation of the Republic of Belarus (annex VII).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the agenda items entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", "Human rights questions", "United Nations Decade of International Law", "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization" and "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Guennadi BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Belarus to
the United Nations

Annex I

Protocol to the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States signed at Minsk on 8 December 1991 by the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation (RSFSR) and Ukraine

The Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation (RSFSR), the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine, on an equitable basis and as High Contracting Parties, shall constitute the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States shall enter into force for each of the High Contracting Parties from the moment of its ratification.

On the basis of the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States, and taking into account the reservations made on the occasion of its ratification, documents shall be drawn up regulating cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth.

The present Protocol forms an integral part of the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States.

DONE at Alma Ata on 21 December 1991 in one copy in the Azerbaijani, Armenian, Belarusian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Moldavian, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Uzbek and Ukrainian languages, all texts being equally authentic. The authentic copy shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall transmit to the High Contracting Parties a certified copy of the present Protocol.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan A. Mutalibov	For the Republic of Armenia L. Ter-Petrosyan	For the Republic of Belarus S. Shushkevich
For the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbaev	For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan A. Akaev	For the Republic of Moldova M. Snegur
For the Russian Federation (RSFSR) B. Yeltsin	For the Republic of Tajikistan R. Nabiev	For Turkmenistan S. Niyazov
For the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov	For Ukraine L. Kravchuk	

Alma Ata, 21 December 1991

Annex II

Alma Ata Declaration

The Independent States,

The Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation (RSFSR), the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine,

Desirous of setting up lawfully constituted democratic States, the relations between which will be developed on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for State sovereignty and sovereign equality, the inalienable right to self-determination, the principles of equality and non-intervention in internal affairs, abstention from the use of force and the threat of force and from economic or any other methods of bringing pressure to bear, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and freedoms including the rights of national minorities, conscientious discharge of obligations and the other universally acknowledged principles and norms of international law,

Recognizing and respecting each other's territorial integrity and the inviolability of existing borders,

Considering that the strengthening of the existing deep historical roots of the relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation is in the vital interest of peoples and serves the cause of peace and security,

Aware of their responsibility for maintaining civil order and harmony among the nationalities,

Faithful to the purposes and principles of the Agreement on the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Declare that:

Cooperation between the parties in the Commonwealth shall be conducted in accordance with the principle of equality through coordinating bodies constituted on a basis of parity and operating under a procedure to be determined by agreements between the parties in the Commonwealth, which is neither a State nor a supra-State entity.

For purposes of ensuring international strategic stability and security, unified command of strategic military forces and joint control over nuclear weapons will be maintained; the parties will respect each other's efforts to achieve the status of a nuclear-free and/or neutral State.

The Commonwealth of Independent States is open, with the consent of all its participants, to accession by other States members of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and also by other States sharing the purposes and principles of the Commonwealth.

The attachment to cooperation in the establishment and development of a common European space and Europe-wide and Eurasian markets is confirmed.

With the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ceases to exist.

The States participating in the Commonwealth guarantee in accordance with their constitutional procedures the discharge of the international obligations deriving from treaties and agreements concluded by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The States participating in the Commonwealth undertake to comply strictly with the principles of the present Declaration.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan
A. Mutalibov

For the Republic of Armenia
L. Ter-Petrosyan

For the Republic of Belarus
S. Shushkevich

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. Nazarbaev

For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan
A. Akaev

For the Republic of Moldova
M. Snegur

For the Russian Federation (RSFSR)
B. Yeltsin

For the Republic of Tajikistan
R. Nabiev

For Turkmenistan
S. Niyazov

For the Republic of Uzbekistan
I. Karimov

For Ukraine
L. Kravchuk

Alma Ata, 21 December 1991

Annex III

Minutes of the meeting of Heads of Independent States

On the basis of the provision embodied in the Agreement on the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Alma Ata Declaration relating to the maintenance under unified command of the common strategic military space and to joint control over nuclear weapons, the High Contracting Parties have agreed as follows:

Pending the resolution of the issue of restructuring of the Armed Forces, command of the Armed Forces shall be assigned to Marshal E. I. Shaposhnikov.

Proposals regarding this issue shall be submitted by 30 December 1991 for consideration by the Heads of State.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan A. Mutalibov	For the Republic of Armenia L. Ter-Petrosyan	For the Republic of Belarus S. Shushkevich
For the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbaev	For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan A. Akaev	For the Republic of Moldova M. Snegur
For the Russian Federation (RSFSR) B. Yeltsin	For the Republic of Tajikistan R. Nabiev	For Turkmenistan S. Niyazov
For the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov	For Ukraine L. Kravchuk	

Alma Ata, 21 December 1991

Annex IV

Agreement on coordinating bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States

1. To deal with the issues associated with coordination of the activity of the States of the Commonwealth in the sphere of common interests, a supreme organ of the Commonwealth, the Council of Heads of State, shall be established, as well as a Council of Heads of Government.

2. The plenipotentiary representatives of the States of the Commonwealth are instructed to submit by 30 December 1991 for consideration by the Council of Heads of State proposals regarding the abolition of the structures of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and also regarding the coordinating bodies of the Commonwealth.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan
A. Mutalibov

For the Republic of Armenia
L. Ter-Petrosyan

For the Republic of Belarus
S. Shushkevich

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. Nazarbaev

For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan
A. Akaev

For the Republic of Moldova
M. Snegur

For the Russian Federation (RSFSR)
B. Yeltsin

For the Republic of Tajikistan
R. Nabiev

For Turkmenistan
S. Niyazov

For the Republic of Uzbekistan
I. Karimov

For Ukraine
L. Kravchuk

Alma Ata, 21 December 1991

Annex V

Decision by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States

The States participating in the Commonwealth, referring to article 12 of the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Proceeding from the intention of each State to discharge the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and to participate in the work of that Organization as full Members,

Bearing in mind that the Republic of Belarus, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Ukraine were founder Members of the United Nations,

Expressing satisfaction that the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine continue to participate in the United Nations as sovereign independent States,

Resolved to promote the strengthening of international peace and security on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations in the interests of their peoples and of the entire international community,

Have decided that:

1. The States of the Commonwealth support Russia's continuance of the membership of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the United Nations, including permanent membership of the Security Council, and other international organizations.

2. The Republic of Belarus, the RFSFR and Ukraine will extend their support to the other States of the Commonwealth in resolving issues of their full membership in the United Nations and other international organizations.

DONE at Alma Ata on 21 December 1991 in one copy in the Azerbaijani, Armenian, Belarusian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Moldavian, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Uzbek and Ukrainian languages, all texts being equally authentic. The authentic copy shall be depcsited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall transmit to the High Contracting Parties a certified copy of the present Protocol.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan A. Mutalibov	For the Republic of Armenia L. Ter-Petrosyan	For the Republic of Belarus S. Shushkevich
For the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbaev	For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan A. Akaev	For the Republic of Moldova M. Snegur
For the Russian Federation (RSFSR) B. Yeltsin	For the Republic of Tajikistan R. Nabiev	For Turkmenistan S. Niyazov
For the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov	For Ukraine L. Kravchuk	

Alma Ata, 21 December 1991

Annex VI

Agreement on joint measures with respect to nuclear weapons

The Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation (RSFSR) and Ukraine, hereinafter referred to as "the participating States",

Confirming their commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

Aspiring to the elimination of all nuclear weapons,

Desirous of promoting the strengthening of international stability,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The nuclear weapons with which the Joint Strategic Armed Forces are equipped safeguard the collective security of all participants in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Article 2

The participating States in the present Agreement confirm the obligation relating to the non-first-use of nuclear weapons.

Article 3

The participating States in the present Agreement shall jointly develop a policy on nuclear issues.

Article 4

Pending the complete elimination of nuclear weapons from the territories of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine, the decision regarding the need to use such weapons shall be taken with the consent of the Heads of the participating States of the Agreement by the President of the RSFSR on the basis of procedures drawn up jointly by the participating States.

Article 5

1. The Republic of Belarus and Ukraine undertake to accede to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as non-nuclear States and to conclude with IAEA the corresponding safeguards agreement.

2. The participating States in the present Agreement undertake not to transfer to any party whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in technology, or control, either direct or indirect, over such weapons and explosive devices, and not in any way to assist, encourage or incite any State not possessing nuclear weapons to produce or acquire by any other means nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices.

3. The provisions of paragraph 2 of this article shall not prevent the transfer of nuclear weapons from the territory of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhzstan and Ukraine to the territory of the RSFSR for the purpose of their destruction.

Article 6

The participating States of the present Agreement shall in conformity with the international Treaty promote the elimination of nuclear weapons. By 1 July 1992 the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and Ukraine shall ensure the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons to central bases adjacent to the manufacturing plants for dismantling under joint control.

Article 7

The Governments of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation (RSFSR) and Ukraine undertake to submit the Treaty on the Reduction and Elimination of Strategic Offensive Arms to the Supreme Soviets of their States for ratification.

Article 8

This Agreement is subject to ratification. It shall enter into force 30 days after deposit of all the instruments of ratification with the Government of the RSFSR.

DONE at Alma Ata in one authentic copy in the Belarussian, Kazakh, Russian and Ukrainian languages, all texts being equally authentic.

For the Republic of Belarus	For the Republic of Kazakhstan	For the Russian Federation (RSFSR)	For Ukraine
S. Shushkevich	N. Nazarbaev	B. Yeltsin	L. Kravchuk

Annex VII

Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Belarus

The delegation of the Republic of Belarus considers that in the process of establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States, all the States must abide strictly by the following principles:

1. Observance of the human rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally accepted international legal instruments, and observance of the rights of national minorities.

2. Resolution of all disputes exclusively by peaceful means through negotiations.

Accordingly, the delegation of the Republic of Belarus considers that membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States may be maintained only on condition of strict compliance with the above principles.

(Signed) S. Shushkevich
President of the Supreme Soviet
of the Republic of Belarus

Adopted unanimously at the high-level meeting of countries participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States at Alma Ata on 21 December 1991 as an official document of the Commonwealth.

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COMPLIANCE WITH ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS

CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS

Letter dated 26 December 1991 from the Acting Chargé d'affaires of the Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency, on the instructions of the Government of Costa Rica, a communiqué issued on 24 December 1991 concerning the initiatives to eliminate nuclear weapons in the Korean peninsula.

I request you to have this note and the attached communiqué circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements" and "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions."

(Signed) José María BORBON
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

ANNEX

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship

Communiqué issued on 24 December 1991

The Government of the Republic of Costa Rica expresses its support for the special declaration made by His Excellency Mr. Roh Tae Woo, President of the Republic of Korea, concerning the non-deployment of nuclear weapons in the Republic of Korea, issued at Seoul on 18 December 1991.

The Government of Costa Rica expresses its satisfaction at the appeal made by the President of the Republic of Korea for North Korea to halt the possession, proliferation and development of nuclear weapons and unconditionally submit all its materials and facilities for inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, thereby contributing to the efforts for peace and reconciliation of the two Koreas.

In accordance with our foreign policy, the Government of Costa Rica reiterates its deep concern that it has not yet been possible to bring about the elimination of all types of nuclear weapons on the part of North Korea.

Lastly, the Government of Costa Rica wishes to stress the invaluable initiative of His Excellency President Roh Tae Woo, and expresses the hope that significant progress will be achieved leading to an agreement guaranteeing the non-deployment of nuclear weapons in the Korean peninsula and contributing to the achievement by the two Koreas, in the new year that is beginning, of a new era of reconciliation, peace, security, cooperation and prosperity.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 27 December 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Togo, issued on 23 December 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under the item entitled: "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity".

(Signed) J. De MARCHANT et d'ANSEMBOURG
Acting Permanent Representative

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Forty-seventh session
THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 28 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement on Cambodia by the five Permanent Members of the Security Council, issued at New York on Saturday, 28 December 1991 (see annex).

On behalf of my colleagues, the other Permanent Members, I should be grateful if you would have this text ciculated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "The situation in Cambodia", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE

ANNEX

Statement of the Five on Cambodia, issued on 28 December 1991

The Five permanent members of the Security Council highly appreciate the efforts being made by His Royal Highness Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State and President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, to assure progress towards peace in Cambodia. In particular, they took note with satisfaction that the SNC Secretariat has become operational under the personal leadership of H.R.H. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and that the Mixed Military Working Group has begun to take shape.

The Five welcome and support the statement made by H.R.H. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk concerning the convening of an SNC meeting before the end of the current year, as well as his declaration, dated 27 December 1991, on measures to be taken in order to consolidate and expedite the peace process in Cambodia.

They appeal to all Cambodian parties to contribute to the development of the process of national reconciliation and the maintenance of peace, by strictly respecting all agreements, including those related to assuring all necessary conditions for the normal functioning of the SNC in Phnom Penh.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 30 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement made by the Government of Colombia on 26 November 1991 concerning the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the support which those States have given to the Russian Federation's continuance of the membership of the USSR in the United Nations, my country's decision to maintain with the Russian Federation the diplomatic relations it had with the Soviet Union and its intention of establishing such relations with the other States of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The following is the text of the statement made by the Government of Colombia:

"The Government of Colombia has followed very closely the process of change in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which led to the dissolution of the USSR and the creation by the majority of its constituent States of a Commonwealth of Independent States.

"The Government of Colombia, bearing in mind the decision taken concerning the Russian Federation on 25 December at the fourth meeting of the Supreme Soviet, has decided to maintain with that Federation the diplomatic relations it formerly had with the Soviet Union.

"The Colombian Government notes the decision taken by the States of the Commonwealth of Independent States to support the Russian Federation's continuance of the membership of the USSR in the United Nations, including its participation in the Security Council, and also the desire expressed by that Commonwealth to contribute to the

strengthening of international peace and security, on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and the fulfilment of its international obligations.

"The National Government states its intention of establishing diplomatic relations with the other States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in due course, in strict conformity with its international policies.

"Lastly, it expresses gratitude for the work done by President Mikhail Gorbachev, which has made a major contribution in recent years to the process of democratization and the climate of détente in international relations.

"Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia, 26 December 1991."

I should be grateful if you would have this communication distributed to the Permanent Missions of States Members of the United Nations as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Fernando CEPEDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 18 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you the text of a note verbale handed to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Australia by the Ambassador of Portugal in Canberra on 16 December 1991.

I would be grateful if you would kindly arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Note verbale handed on 16 December 1991 to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Australia by the Ambassador of Portugal in Canberra

"The Australian Federal Minister for Resources, Mr. Alan Griffiths, announced, on December 12, that eleven production sharing contracts have been approved for petroleum exploration in "Area A" defined by the "Timor-Gap Cooperation Treaty", signed on 11th December, 1989, by Australia and Indonesia.

Mr. Griffiths' announcement also indicated that eleven production sharing contracts will be executed within the coming thirty days between the "Joint Authority" established by the aforesaid Treaty and the selected applicants.

2. This decision aggravates the dispute existing between Australia and Portugal over East Timor submitted to the International Court of Justice, on 22nd February 1991.

3. In so doing, the Australian Government behaves directly against one of the requests formulated in the application instituting proceedings filed by Portugal, namely "(...) to refrain from any act relating to the exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf in the area of the Timor-Gap" (...)"

Moreover, Australia apparently intends to confront the Court with a "fait accompli" concerning the very object of the dispute.

4. The present action of a "Joint Authority" involving Australia and a third party will not exempt the Commonwealth of Australia from its individual responsibility for these new violations of international law, namely of the United Nations Charter.

5. Through this initiative Australia confirms and worsens the illicit nature of the facts denounced by Portugal in its application submitted to the International Court of Justice.

Furthermore, and regardless of the role played by a third power, Australia can cause very serious material damages to the people of East Timor.

6. The Portuguese Government strongly protests against these developments and reserves itself the right to obtain, through all the available legal means, from Australia, the companies involved in oil exploration in the above-mentioned area and from any other entities benefiting directly from that exploration, reparations due to the people of East Timor and to Portugal in virtue of all the damages caused by these new illegal actions.'"